



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Communion
Third Sunday of Advent
11 December 2022 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Wooden It Be Lovely

Rev. Margaret Anne Jessup

Voluntary

Vieux Noël

César Franck

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Lighting of the Third Advent
Candle and Call to Worship**

One: People of God, come, for the light of joy calls us together.

All: **Come, let us follow this light into Advent,
into the wonder and heart of God's love.**

One: God's love is rain in a dry land,
and water in the deserts of our lives.

All: **And so the desert shall rejoice,
and be filled with beauty and abundance.
All the wilderness will sing together in joy.**

One: People of God, come, for the light of joy calls us together.

All: **Come, let us follow this light in our worship.**

(The third Advent candle is lit.)

***Processional Hymn 82**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

***Prayer of Confession** O Holy God, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession. We wait for Emmanuel because we long for your presence in our lives. We wait for Jesus because we need a Savior. We wait for a Messiah because the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, and the hungry stand unheard at the door. In the stillness of this Advent, hear our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon**
Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Passing of the Peace**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri Hymnal, Back Cover

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response Come, Savior, quickly come; come,
Come Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, come, Savior, quickly come.
Children in preschool – Grade 5 go to Sunday School class following the Congregational Response.

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 35:1-10 Pew Bible, OT pages 663

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Pew Bible, NT pages 11

Leader:
People:

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Unforeseen Joy

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

The text: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Isaiah 35:1

Anthem

The Wellspring

Bob Chilcott

Infant of the bubbling spring, well in my heart.
Child of the sighing marsh, breathe in my head.
Son of the keen light, quicken my eyes.
Rebel of the restless creeks, tumble in my ears.
Disciple of the rising tide, dance in my heart.
Teacher of the gruff salt-wind, educate my tongue.
Infant of the bubbling spring, well in my heart.

Text: Kevin Crossley-Holland

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

*Prayer of Welcome

We, as a church of Jesus Christ, lovingly receive you to our communion. We welcome you to this fellowship with us, in the blessings of the gospel, and we promise to treat you with Christian affection, to watch over you with tenderness, and to offer our prayers on your behalf.

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn** We All Are One in Mission *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*
**We are all one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

**The Presentation
and Dedication of our Gifts** *At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass
the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

Offertory There is No Rose Ronald Carter
There is no rose of such vertu as is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia. For in this rose contained was heaven and earth
in little space: Res miranda. By that rose we may well see
there be one God in persons three: Pares forma. The angel
sangen the shepherds too: Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus. Leave we all this worldly mirth and follow we
this joyful birth. Transeamus. Text: Anon. c. 1420

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and
praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with
choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and
with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever
sing to the glory of your name

The people sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. It features a melody with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) and a final fermata on the last note.

Leader:

You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine...

Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

Words of Institution

Communion Music

Nativity Carol

Linda Steen Spevacek

Distribution of Elements

The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.

***Prayer after Communion** Holy and loving God, we gather around this table with a deep sense of gratitude, wonder, and joy that the Creator of heaven and earth would come to us in the gentleness and mystery of the Christ Child to heal our sorrow and to bring unforeseen joy into our lives. Amen.

***Hymn 144** In the Bleak Midwinter *Cranham*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response** Heaven and Earth Are Ringing *Giovanni Gastoldi*

***Voluntary** Noël Angevin *César Franck*
(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgists** Rev. Christian Choi
- **Acolytes:** James Maeda and Sam Batterman
- **Bible & Cross Carriers:** Emily Brower & Bryce Pound
- **Greeters:** Christy, Karl, and Bryce Pound
- **Advent Candle Lighters:** Glenna Kniss and Georgina Hudspeth
- **Today's Communion Bread** is honey whole wheat and was lovingly baked by Susan Shaw.
- **Communion Prep Team:** Mary Ray, Carol Bloemer, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Krista Steller
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Mary Ray (Team Leader), Bryce Pound, Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Adam Ekstedt, Robyn Hovey, Jay Kennerly, Peter Kieffer, Tim Kluge, Christy Pound, Marilyn Rigney, Carolyn Swanson, Sarah Zerfas
- **Home Communion Teams:** Erin Ekstedt and Krista Steller, Judy Knox and Sara Eldridge, Julie and Mike Sundquist, Becky Huston and Mary Ray.
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; The St. Andrew's Sisters; Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher) Mervice Alah Abung, Rich Canady, Terry Haynor, Mary King, Julie McDonough, Bruce Strom, Brinton Wilkey
- **Safety Team:** Todd Knox, Alan Schuermann
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 a.m. Session meeting (Library)** to receive new members
- **9:30 a.m. – 12 noon** Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery) This week's Bible Story: "Rufus and the Very Special Baby." Caregivers: Leigh Milward, Caroline Haynor
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Children Kindergarten – Grade 5 will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Peace and Hope" (Isaiah 35:1-10). Teachers: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
- **11:15 a.m. Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)** presents "No Room at the Inn: Homeless Ministries" as we welcome Rev. Margaret Ann Jessup, Executive Director for Wooden It Be Lovely. WPC made a \$49,000 pledge over seven years beginning in 2021 to their "Be Lovely Home," another component of the ministry that Rev. Jessup began at Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church in 2013. The residence at 801 S. Grand Ave. this non-profit organization, where women recovering from forms of addiction, poverty or abuse are given jobs refurbishing furniture, sewing, or making candles.
- **11:15 a.m. Confirmands Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)** The Confirmation Class will gather for a brief rehearsal of reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service.
- **4:00 p.m. Christmas Vespers (Sanctuary)** The program will include choral music and Carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters, with Dale Rogers, Organist
- **5:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party** The Junior and Senior High youth are invited to the Pounds' home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for a holiday potluck! Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift (maximum of \$15).

The Library Committee has prepared a cart filled with Christmas books (both adults & children's) available for checkout from both of our libraries this Sunday in the West Narthex. Please plan to stop to peruse the books and resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

WI-FI HEARING ASSISTANCE SYSTEM is available in our Sanctuary. A basket is located at each Sanctuary entrance with instructions to install the app for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids, lanyards and hearing amplifier packets for those with regular hearing aids, hearing amplifier packets and disposable earbuds for those without hearing aids. Please return the lanyards and hearing amplifier packets at the end of worship. For assistance, ask an usher.

NEW MEMBERS were received this morning at a Special Session meeting. We welcome:

Catherine D. (Cate) Brown by Letter of Transfer from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Westlake Village, CA. Her sponsors are Sandy Bellatti and Sue Donels.

Arthur Cochran by Reaffirmation of Faith. His sponsor is Mal Hildebrand.

Randy and Bernie Wiseman by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL. Their sponsors are Marilyn and Jim Rigney.

CHRISMON BOOKLETS outline the history and meaning of the ornaments displayed on Westminster's Chrismon Tree located in the Chancel and can be found in the pew pockets.

2023 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE - As of Friday, December 9 we have received **216** pledges for a total of **\$794,144**. This is **94%** toward our **\$848,800** goal. Thank you to all who pledged. If you have not made a pledge, please do so soon. Pledges can also be made online at www.wpcspi.org.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS - Members and friends are invited to donate \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund and \$25 to support Westminster's decoration fund. **Please submit your donation with your desired wording and dedication by Monday, December 12.** You may go online at www.wpcspi.org to donate and let us know how you want this to be listed in the bulletin. If you wish to pay by check, please indicate this online.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING assists current and retired church workers and their families who are in financial need, also makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please look for the offering envelopes and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, December 12, 1:00 p.m. at the home of Eleanor VanDeventer (1811 Plover Rd, 62711). Eleanor will lead Lesson 4 "Sabbath and Surrender."

K2P4 KNITTERS who wish to knit at Westminster may do so on December 13 and 20. The group will knit at home on December 27 and January 3. Regular Tuesday sessions will resume on January 10, 2023 with a brown bag lunch. Questions - call Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION will take place at the Contact Ministries Main Building (100 E Adams St, Springfield, IL 62703) on Wednesday, December 14. If you are able to serve, please call coordinator of Contact Ministries at (217) 753-3939 ext. 12.

SESSION AND DEACON JOINT MEETING is Wednesday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We welcome new and thank outgoing elders and deacons. Following the joint meeting, church officers and their significant others are invited to a festive reception at the Kieffer Home.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT will be next Sunday, December 18 during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. The Sunday school classes will come together under Sue Cull's leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. The children will process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the benediction.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE is Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 a.m. in the chancel. The Confirmation Class Readers, participating children and group leaders will gather after worship for a brief rehearsal of reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS practice for the Service of Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Service Sunday, December 18 at 11:15 a.m. in the Youth Room.

POINSETTIA DELIVERIES - The Board of Deacons will deliver Christmas poinsettias Sunday, December 18 to members who have lost loved ones in the last year.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, December 20 at 12:00 Noon for a Christmas luncheon in Parish Hall. Please RSVP to Nancy Canady at 217-899-9890.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE

The Confirmation Class of 2023 will read the Christmas story; Mervice Alah Abung and her daughter Dayana will be our Holy Family, and the children will participate as shepherds, angels, and magi under the direction of a designated leader. Your child can arrive at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to receive their costume and instructions or participate as a leader and attend practice on Sunday, December 18 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Don't miss this special event which includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, vegetable, garden salad, cheesy potatoes, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. Adults are \$21.50, children 6-12 are \$12.50 and children ages 5 and under are at no charge. **Reservations and payment must be made no later than Tuesday, December 20.** Please send your payment and number attending to the Church Office. Reservation forms will be in the bulletins on December 4, 11 and 18.

7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our High School seniors will read the Christmas Story in this Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. In ancient times, the bells of churches were silenced during the season of Advent. Yet, at the singing of the angel's song, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (Glory to God in the Highest) the bells were rung. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

**SO BRING YOUR SILVER BELLS, BRASS BELLS,
JINGLE BELLS, AND EVEN COW BELLS
TO THIS SERVICE AND BE PREPARED TO RING OUT IN PEALS OF JOY!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL SERVICE

The Westminster family will gather for a joyful celebration of Christmas Day. Worship will include a brief meditation, the singing of favorite Christmas carols, and special music. Childcare will be provided; however, Sunday School will not be held.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 A.M. NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION SERVICE

On New Year's Day, we will gather for one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. and partake in the Sacrament of Communion. Childcare will be provided and a combined Sunday School class presents "A Refugee Family," Matthew 2:13-23.



Christmas Vespers

WESTMINSTER AT FOUR

Sunday, 11 December 2022 4:00 p.m.

Westminster Choir

St. Andrew's Sisters

Dale Thomas Rogers, Organist

The program includes choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir and the St. Andrew's Sisters. Vespers will include the seasonal music of Wilan, Lloyd Webber, Forrest, Thiman, Walmisley, Chilcott, and choral settings of Christmas Carols.

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT WESTMINSTER

FOLLOWING THE 5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE
PRIOR TO THE 7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for the
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER
IN PARISH HALL
SEATING 5:45 – 6:00 P.M.
DINNER IS SERVED AT 6:00 P.M.



A traditional meal will be served including roast turkey, gravy, baked ham, cheese potatoes, green beans, a garden salad with choice of dressing, rolls w/butter, and fruit pies for dessert.

PRICE: Adults \$21.50
Children (6-12) \$12.50
Age 5 and under, no charge

Christmas Eve Dinner Reservation: This year we are limiting the gathering to 100. You may return this completed form or go to our website front page at www.wpcspi.org for the link to submit the online form. Payment can be made by check or online. Reservations and payment must be delivered to the church **by Tuesday, December 20.** *Sorry, no refunds if cancelled.*

NAME: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of Adults: _____ \$ _____ (ea. \$21.50) Total \$ _____

Number of children ages 6-12: _____ \$ _____ (ea. \$12.50) Total \$ _____

Number of children ages 5 and under _____ (free)

Total Due: \$ _____

Payment: Check # _____ (Online convenience fees: \$1.00/adult, \$0.50/child)

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, December 12

- 12:30 PM WCP Long Range Planning Meeting (Conference Room)
- 1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (off-site)
- 5:00 PM WCP Holiday Party (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, December 13

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Conference Room)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2, Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids
- 4:00 PM Habitat Steering Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 6:30 PM WCP Board Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 7:30 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Music Room)

Wednesday, December 14

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 5:30 PM Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 15

- 4:00 PM Personnel Committee
- 6:00 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)

Friday, December 16

Saturday, December 17

Sunday, December 18

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM Christmas Eve Children's Rehearsal for children and confirmands (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 AM Senior Class Lesson & Carols Rehearsal (Youth Room)

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<http://www.wpcspi.org>

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Director

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

Terry Gietl
Bill Hibbert
Eddie Hubbard
Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians